



YAMA KI NEWSLETTER

Learning from each other. Sharing with the community”

May

2007

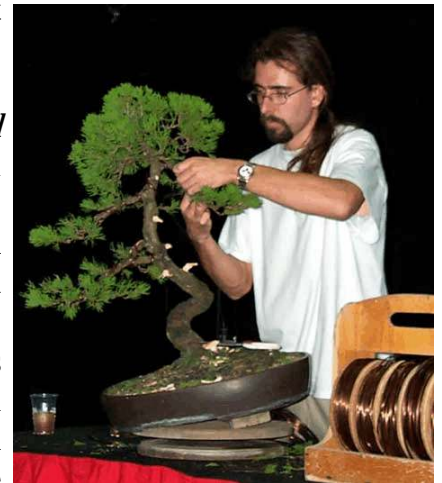
DAVID BENAVENTE LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION 12 NOON ON SATURDAY MAY 5, 2007 @ BARTLETT ARBORETUM

Saturday, May 5th, 12:00pm, YAMA KI reconvenes at the Bartlett Arboretum for its next meeting. Note the change to the 1st Saturday of the month due to the Arboretum’s needing the Education Building on our regular date. The Program Committee is pleased to present *David Benavente* of Spain, one of Europe’s most sought-after young bonsai artists. Many clubs joined to bring *David* from Spain to the northeast so that each club would have the opportunity to learn from his lecture/demonstration at an affordable cost. For YAMA KI, he will style a large Juniper.

Lacking the availability of a formal biography for our demonstrator, your editors have pieced together the following information about *David Benavente* from several websites and translated them using rusty, high school Spanish.

For starters: for nine years he was conservator of the Colección Nacional de Bonsái; for ten years at the Museo del Bonsái de Alcobendas; and he has his own school of Bonsái. He has presented more than 100 demonstrations, designed more than 5,000 trees, exhibited more than 50 trees at international exhibitions; published articles and reviews in international journals for more than eight years. His teaching and studying has brought him to Brazil, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Japan, and of course, throughout Europe. He was the first Spanish bonsai artist invited to exhibit and demonstrate at the Ginko exhibition – which he refers to as the “kokofu europeo.”

And he is only in his mid-30s! Now that is impressive. You can check out his approach where there are fine photographs of his work at www.davidbenavente.com. Spanish isn’t required for the visuals.



APRIL 25TH TED MATSON’S LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION

A fourth of our membership came out on the rainy night of April 25th to share dinner over a Costco spread presented by our catering crew and then to learn from California bonsai artist *Ted Matson*. The Program Committee purchased a collected Ponderosa pine at the MABS festival for him to style.



The tree, collected about a year ago, was a challenge: three trunks growing from the main trunk, and the center one had a right angle about two inches above the crotch from which it grew. This tree seemed healthy as evidenced by the well-colored foliage and bright back-budding on several branches, both factors indicated a good root system. Although the tree seemed to be about 65 years-old many of the limbs were soft and exceedingly pliable. The extreme flexibility of the branches is due to the fact that collected pines have little nutrients stored from nature. However within 5 years in captivity, when fed a balanced diet, the cell structure will harden and branches will become stiffer for restyling.



Reverse taper & 3 trunks



2 trunks but bad angle



1 trunk with good branches



After pruning & wiring



Ted Matson and the new Pine semi-cascade

Mike Pollock provided this month's tokonoma - an Ilex with a hut stone accent ↘



Ted spent a fair amount of time looking over the tree stating that, "You have to observe your material before deciding on a design. Otherwise you are liable to impose your desires on the tree rather than responding to the tree's inherent possibilities." The un-repotted Ponderosa, now a semi-cascade is an amazing bonsai considering the difficulties present by the purchased material.

You will have a chance to acquire it for your outdoor collection at our Annual Meeting/Semi-Annual Auction in July. It will be a welcome addition to any of our bonsai stands.

GLEANINGS FROM TED MATSON

- * When creating shari, cut the bark to outline the area to be trimmed. This helps control the amount of bark removed as you peel.
- * Don't put lime sulphur on fresh shari or jins. The wood must be allowed to dry first so that the chemicals can soak in. Otherwise, the first watering will simply wash the chemicals into the soil.
- * When wiring a trunk, set your wire at an angle into the soil at the back of the tree and bring it around to the front.
- * When secondary branches grow from the top of a branch upwards, instead of removing them, rotate the branch so that the secondary branches emerge from the sides of the limb. Check the branch first to find which direction (left/right) is softer and wire in that direction.. Make sure that the foliage facing up to the sun is not turned upside down.

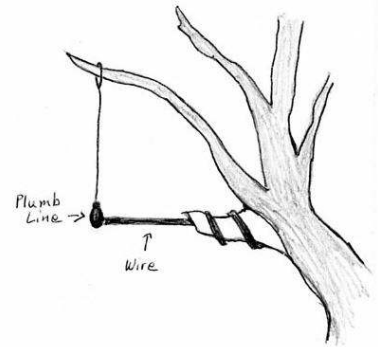
- * *Ted* uses a liquid cut paste which is easy to use at the edges of shari where it meets the bark. The name is in Japanese and no members present were aware of it. *Irv* took a picture of it and emailed it to *Lavanya*. She discovered that Shanti Bithi's has it in stock. Members may purchase it there. She will bring some for sale to the May meeting.
- * Removing the terminal "button" (next year's terminal growth) before putting the tree in winter storage will produce shorter terminal growth and more back-budding with Pines (provided the tree is not in total darkness during dormancy).
- * *Ted* suggested that here in the Northeast, we could replot our trees during the summer provided that there is sufficient time for the tree to subsequently produce enough growth to warrant at least two or more prunings before dormancy. This would indicate that root growth was strong enough to carry the tree through winter in a healthy condition.
- * Don't give up on old trees with beautiful large trunks just because they have horrible or no branching. Grafting (thread or approach) will only take a few years to bring a tree back to excellent shape. It would take many many years to recreate a trunk of the same stature.
- * *Ted* strongly recommended a new product on the market for systemic insect control - Bayer Advanced (12 month) Tree & Shrub Insect Control. This is a soil drench, not a spray, and he suggested using it as a preventative. Every California nurseryman he knows who has tried it says it has solved most of their insect problems.

REMEMBERING THE PLANTING ANGLE WHEN REPOTTING

The following repotting tip appeared in the March 2007 issue of The Twig (Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society). This note is from a part of *Mike Hagedorn's* presentation:

- * Remembering the planting angle for a tree in training:

1. Use a plumb line and wire.
2. Attach a weight to fishing line or a light cord.
3. Tie to a branch and establish the planting angle.
4. Attach a piece of wire to a branch or jin so that the end of the wire just touches the hanging weight's bottom.
5. Don't move the wire until the tree is repotted.



MEMBER BONSAI EXHIBIT AT LASDON PARK & ARBORETUM SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2007

All YAMA KI members are encouraged to bring a bonsai tree to exhibit at our own member show at the Lasdon Park in Westchester on Sunday, June 3rd. Set-up time is 10:00 am. The exhibit time is 11:00 am until 3:30 pm. Prepare your tree now. Trees with wiring will be displayed since part of the purpose of this exhibit is educational. You may enter more than one tree. Bring a card with the name of the tree, its years in training, and if you know its actual age, include that. It is your election whether or not to identify yourself as owner. Bring a folding chair and do bring your picnic lunch, sun block, and a hat. The day is on rain or shine.

DIRECTIONS: Take I-684 to exit 6, and head west on Route 35; the park entrance is three miles ahead on left. Or take the Taconic State Parkway to Route 202 exit and head east on Route 202. Follow to Route 35 and turn left; the park is three miles ahead on the right.

PREPARING YOUR BONSAI FOR DISPLAY

Bring your plants with the following preparation:

- ✓ Groom your trees by removing any surface debris including twigs, leaves, weeds, etc.
- ✓ Replace or freshen moss or other ground cover
- ✓ Polish pots by removing mineral deposits, soil and water spots
- ✓ Bring mats of a neutral color (e.g., bamboo or grasscloth) or stands for positioning your bonsai
- ✓ Accent plants are welcome as they are a traditional part of a bonsai display

BONSAI PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

The Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection in Federal Way, WA, is planning a photographic display of bonsai from clubs throughout the US. This year's exhibit is planned for June 15th through July 11th. This is an opportunity to provide recognition to those clubs and individuals who advance the art of bonsai here in the United States.

Clubs that submit images chosen for display will be featured on and linked to their website and will be featured in their exhibit directory. Individuals whose bonsai images are displayed will receive a certificate of appreciation and a fine quality photographic enlargement of the image(s).

For further information and submission requirements contact Dave DeGroot at 253-924-5206 or david.degroot@weyerhaeuser.com. The submission deadline is May 15th.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our annual election of officers and Board members will occur at the July 14th meeting at the Bartlett Arboretum. Anyone interested in serving as an officer or member of the Board of Directors should contact *Norm Geisinger* at 203-746-3200 or normc21@aol.com. Please submit your name by May 23rd to give the Nominating Committee time to consider your candidacy for the recommended slate. The terms of service are one year for all officers and three years for all directors, with all terms renewable. The Board of Directors consists of five officers, six directors, and the immediate past president. The directors' terms of officer is rotated so that each year two director's term expire. The Committee's slate for all officers and for the two three-year board positions available will be published in the June newsletter.

24th MABS 2007 SPRING FESTIVAL

A month before the third weekend in April, the Equinox informed us that it was spring....lie! De Facto spring began the third weekend in April. And that coincided with MidAtlantic Bonsai's 24th Spring Festival.

The MABS Board provided a slightly different program format this year. In order to give each artist additional time to develop their styling more fully at the lecture/demonstrations, only three artists made presentations. Then each artist refined his (all men) work in a breakout space. This format worked as planned and the trees which were raffled were fine samples of talented bonsai artists styling difficult material. Over the course of the next few months this NEWSLETTER will publish "gleanings" and photographs from the sessions.

With the earlier mailing of the registration brochures to our members, everyone who wanted to spend time at a critique or style a tree with a master at a workshop was able to enroll. Many of us found it challenging to try to pick the award winners from among the trees in the Exhibit. The artists chose BEST in SHOW – won this year by *Mike Pollock* – see photo elsewhere. Two other trees received recognition with The President's Award and the choice of the Exhibit Committee.

Not only did *Mike* win Best in Show, but *Rupen Kiskanyan* and *Gail Therrien* each won raffle trees. We helped the many vendors by thinning their stock of plant material (both pre and styled bonsai) and a few bought non-bonsai items for their gardens. There were numerous very distinctive suiban for sale and both new style and old style tools and materials (e.g. a new form of cut paste –liquid in a tube).

We picked up bargains at both the silent and live auctions, feasted well at the sumptuous buffet and hearty banquet, met friends of long-standing and made some new ones. Almost all of YAMA KI's attendees helped out at the registration desk or as docents at the Exhibit.

MAB's Board is well into the planning for the 2008 Festival – MidAtlantic's 25th – with a stellar line-up of internationally renowned bonsai artists – and you can start now to plan your April 2008 weekend.

If you have any suggestions for additions, improvements or changes to how this bonsai festival works, please tell *Rhoda Kleiman*, *Gail Therrien*, or *Lucille Miller*. They represent YAMA KI in this cooperative venture. Incidentally, after a number of years as our lead representative to the MABS Board and serving as Secretary, *Rhoda* has been elected Vice-President.



Gail Therrien wins Robert Steven's Hinoki cypress



Rupen Kiskanyan wins *Guy Guidry's* White Easter pine



Robert Steven with Hinoki cypress before the raffle



Guy Guidry with White Eastern pine before raffle



Mike Pollock's "Best of Show"

**MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE
FOR FISCAL YEAR MAY 1, 2007 - APRIL 30, 2008**



Membership dues for the new fiscal year is now due. Family membership is \$50 and Individual membership is \$40. Please bring your check to the May meeting or mail it to the return address of this newsletter.

OFFICERS

Gail Therrien. President
Norman Geisinger. Vice-President
Irv Kleiman. Treasurer
Mike Pollock. Corresponding Secretary
Steve Peach. Recording Secretary

DIRECTORS

David Castro, John Cotaggio, Craig Cowing,
Kevin Govia, Rupen Kiskanyan, and Lavanya Muller

Co-Editors: Rhoda & Irv Kleiman

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<http://www.yamakibonsai.org>

COMING EVENTS

- May 5 12:00 pm *David Benavente* lecture/demo
- June 3 10:00 am Lasdon Park Bonsai Exhibit set-up
- June 9 10:00 am *Colin Lewis* Lecture/demo at Shanti Bithi
- July 14 12:00 pm Annual Elections & Summer Auction
- July 15 10:00 am Hammond Park Bonsai Exhibit

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